

Coffee and the Word on a Tuesday Morning

Coffee has been a relatively recent discovery for me. I started drinking coffee about a week into seminary because I thought I needed it to get through morning classes. My strategy for morning classes in college was more or less to try to hold a pencil in one hand while I slept on the other; a strategy that just doesn't cut it when you feel that it might be important to get a reasonable handle on the deep things of God before going into pastoral ministry. Now I've become one of "those people." One of "those people" who are the stuff of Caribou and Starbucks ads, who fall flat on their faces without coffee in the morning. But for better or worse, I love (and need) a good cup o' joe in the morning. Yes, I'm an addict.

My wife and I are on the same Bible reading schedule, which takes us through the entire Bible in a year. It's a helpful schedule in that it provides a reading for only 25 days each month, which is good for people like me who require a small amount of latitude for my weakness. This month, however, by God's grace, I finished the readings on the 26th. So, last Tuesday I overslept, went downstairs to (*of course*) get some coffee, and kiss my bride goodbye for the day. Because I was already an hour and a half behind on my day, and because I had already finished the month's assigned readings, I tentatively decided to set aside my morning time of communion with God and get right into the really "important" stuff of the day: studying esoteric theological nonsense. But as I tried to begin the day, to my surprise, I couldn't take the first step. I have developed another addiction.

It's fascinating to me how much and how passionately the psalmists speak of God and the *morning*. "But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress" (Ps. 59:16), "But I, O LORD, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you" (Ps. 88:13). "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" (Ps. 90:14). "It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning" (Ps. 92:1-2). "Let me hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in Thee; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to Thee I lift up my soul" (Ps. 143:8).

Evidently David was as addicted to hearing of His lovingkindness in the morning as I am. I cannot do without it. Fortunately, this is a good addiction. It sustains me all day long. It makes me glad in Him and gives me peace. It sets me on a daily trajectory of holiness and love. It doesn't make me jittery, and I can partake of it again in the evening without worrying about having trouble falling asleep. So drink deeply, friend, and drink in the morning. And don't forget the joe.

In the Joy of the Lord,

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